

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 BRONZE MEDAL VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. These outstanding men and women have played an important role in building a better community. This hard work and determination has earned several citizens of Prince William County the highest honor bestowed upon county public safety officials—The Bronze Medal Valor Award.

The Bronze Medal is awarded to emergency service officers who demonstrate extraordinary judgment, ingenuity, or performance of their duties during an emergency. This may also include the saving of a life threatened by physical or medical reasons.

It is with great honor that I recognize Police Officer Second Class H. Booth III of the Prince William County Police Department, Firefighter Christine Connally of the OWL Volunteer Fire Department, and Firefighter Lawrence Kearnes of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department as the recipients of the 2003 Bronze Medal Valor Award. The service they provide to the community is tremendous and is deserving of such acclaim.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. The events of September 11th served as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us every day. Their constant efforts on behalf of Prince William County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our neighborhoods; and their individual and collective acts of heroism deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals.

CONCERNING U.S. AND ALLIED ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL KILLED, WOUNDED, OR TAKEN CAPTIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2003, I introduced a Resolution honoring U.S. and allied troops who have been killed in action. My resolution also honors those who are wounded, missing, or being held as prisoners of war.

Our men and women in uniform consistently reflect great honor upon this nation, whether

they are engaged in humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, or war. Throughout our history, we have expected the very best from them. We expect them to be valiant, selfless, courageous, dependable, and dedicated, and they never disappoint us. It is a privilege and an honor to have them represent our nation, whether providing humanitarian assistance, conducting peacekeeping operations, or engaged in war.

Because of the very high regard in which we hold members of the armed services, it is especially disturbing to us when one of these fine young men or women is killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. By any measure, their contributions, in terms of human sacrifice, are immense. As a nation we share the sense of loss and fear and worry that their families are experiencing.

It is difficult to find words of comfort for their families—offering our deepest sympathy doesn't begin to express the anguish we experience when we see pictures of American and allied soldiers killed, wounded, or held captive, or when we learn that some are missing in action. These are truly images that bind us together in our thoughts and prayers.

We must never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history. They have earned our gratitude and respect.

I encourage my colleagues and the citizens of this nation, to remember these inspiring men and women who have distinguished themselves with their gallantry and courage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 27, 2003, despite all my efforts, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 91, on H. Con. Res. 118, Concerning the Treatment of Members of the Armed Forces Held as Prisoner of War by Iraqi Authorities, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 91—"aye."

As the United States Armed Forces and its international allies continue to liberate the oppressed Iraqi people from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, we pause today to recognize their bravery and professionalism. In addition, Congress extends heartfelt sympathies to the families of servicemembers who have been injured, killed, or taken prisoner in Iraq.

For more than 50 years, the Third Geneva Convention has prescribed guidelines for the proper and humane treatment of prisoners of war. Sadly, Iraq—which has agreed to abide by the Third Geneva Convention—views these international standards with the same callousness and disregard for human life that Saddam Hussein's murderous regime has dem-

onstrated for decades. Iraqi troops unwilling to die for a corrupt, diabolical regime can be comforted by the fact that American and coalition forces will treat prisoners of war humanely, supplying them with food, shelter, and medical assistance—in other words, treating them in full compliance with the Third Geneva Convention.

Iraqi television recently has broadcast, in direct violation of the Third Geneva Convention, footage of American Prisoners of War. I join my colleagues in thanking America's brave men and women serving their country on the front lines. I also unequivocally condemn Iraq's mistreatment of prisoners of war and remind the Iraqi regime that, if it chooses to ignore America's demand to abide by its commitment to the Third Geneva Convention, then these war criminals will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

JOHN KEBLES HONORED BY PENNSYLVANIA CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long record of service to the community of a constituent of mine, my good friend John Kebles. John is president and chief executive officer of Choice One Federal Credit Union in Wilkes-Barre and outgoing chairman of the board of the Pennsylvania Credit Union League for 2001–2002. The league will thank and honor him for his service at its annual convention, to be held from April 24 to 26, 2003.

I grew to know John well in 1998 during the fight to pass the Credit Union Membership Access Act, better known to many as H.R. 1151. The enactment of this law showed the power of average citizens to influence Congress, and, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that John is an excellent example of those dedicated souls who exercised their Constitutionally guaranteed right to petition their government.

As chairman of the state credit union league, he has successfully urged credit union members to become more involved in their government, setting an example for other credit union members around the nation. Another example of the league's many accomplishments under his leadership is the enactment of a state credit union parity bill last year to expand opportunities for state-chartered credit unions. Also during his tenure, the league has launched CU BizSource, a new product and service to offer business loans to members. This is a fine example of the democratic—"little D"—access to capital that credit unions are intended to provide.

In the Wilkes-Barre area, John has been a leader in several community-minded initiatives, including spearheading the effort by several

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

credit unions to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Ashley and seeking a community charter, which has made Choice One better able to serve more lower-income people. I am proud to claim him as a constituent and to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the honor being accorded to John Kebles by the Pennsylvania Credit Union League, and I wish him and his family all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 LIFESAVING VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. These outstanding men and women have played an important role in building a better community. This hard work and determination has earned several citizens of Prince William County the highest honor bestowed upon county public safety officials—The Lifesaving Valor Award.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded to public safety officials in recognition of acts taken in a life-threatening situation in which an individual's life is in risk, either medically or physically. It is with great honor that I enter into the record the names of the 2003 Lifesaving Award recipients. OWL Volunteer Fire Department: Lt. James Dart; Prince William County Police Department: MPO W.A. Lawrence; MPO G.W. Motley; MPO K.A. Muehlauser; Arlington County Sheriff's Department: Deputy J. O'Keefe; USMC: Sergeant Daniel P. O'Mahoney. The service they provide to the community is tremendous and is deserving of such acclaim.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. The events of September 11th served as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us every day. Their constant efforts on behalf of Prince William County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our neighborhoods; and their individual and collective acts of heroism deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals.

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 153 and ask my colleagues to join me. This resolution declares the sense

of Congress that the President of the United States should designate a national day of prayer, fasting and humility. At a time when many of our young men and women are engaged in a global war on terrorism and a campaign to disarm the Iraqi regime, it is entirely appropriate we should humble ourselves before Almighty God.

Throughout American history, both the Congress and the President have called on the American people to acknowledge the Providence of God and to seek his divine wisdom. We have witnessed the benefits of national prayer and fasting in times past, and we are today asking the President to once again proclaim such a day. While the challenges we face in the 21st Century are new, we know the root causes of these difficulties are much the same as they have always been.

It is with the hope that good will ultimately triumph that we are asking for all people to collectively acknowledge God and seek guidance, strength and resolve through prayer and fasting.

Many families all across this great nation are praying for a quick resolve to the conflict in Iraq. It is fitting that we as a nation join with them in solidarity during this time of war and chaos.

As we hear new reports of those killed or missing in action, our hearts go out to the children and families of these brave men and women fighting overseas. Pfc. Patrick Miller, a constituent of mine, is among those Americans being held captive in Iraq. We are once again realizing the high cost of war and what it means to defend liberty.

In recent years I think most Americans have been made more aware of just how fragile peace can be, both at home and abroad. America and the world have witnessed the destruction of innocent life and the violation of universal human rights by brutal men. In a time when the President and other leaders are deciding how to respond to these situations, it is vitally important we recognize a higher power than ourselves.

Our Founding Fathers understood the necessity of seeking guidance from God, and today we are no less in need of that same Divine Counsel.

During the Civil War Abraham Lincoln was asked if God was on his side. His reply was, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on my side. My great concern is to be on God's side."

In the same spirit of humility Abraham Lincoln exhibited during one of our nation's darkest hours, we are asking the President to call for a national day of prayer, humility and fasting.

As we examine ourselves before God, we will surely be shown our own failings and will learn how we can do better in our actions. I am confident that as in times past, God will once again provide assistance to our country in our time of need.

In 1787 Benjamin Franklin said, "We need God as our friend not our enemy. We need him to be our ally not our adversary. We need to make sure that we keep God's concurring aid."

As Mr. Franklin wisely affirmed our need for God more than two centuries ago, once again we need to join together as a country in asking for the "aid" of the Almighty.

KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill. It provides states with Federal funds to train caseworkers in child protective service systems, an initiative that the State of Florida desperately needs.

Florida's Department of Children and Families has an abysmal record of monitoring the children entrusted to its care, and I am hopeful that an infusion of Federal funds, aimed at increasing both training and oversight of social workers, will alleviate this disgrace.

I am sure you will recall the story of 5-year-old Rilya Wilson, the young Florida child whose whereabouts are still unknown. Eight months after her disappearance, her social worker was still filing reports indicating that she had routinely conducted home visits and that the child was safe and well cared for.

Regrettably, investigations into Florida's child welfare system revealed that this was not an isolated case. Last September, in response to public outcry over the Rilya Wilson incident, Governor Bush replaced the secretary of Florida's Department of Children and Families.

He also created a governor's task force in an attempt to locate an additional 393 children missing from Florida's child welfare system.

After a 15-week effort, the Governor described the results "a success" even though only one-fourth of the 393 missing children had been located, and the task force was disbanded.

I am hopeful that an infusion of Federal funds, specifically geared towards training caseworkers, will improve the child welfare system in the State of Florida and the rest of the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 27, 2003, despite all my efforts, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 87, 88, and 90 I would have voted the following way:

Rollcall vote No. 87, Amendment offered by Rep. FEENEY of Florida—"aye"

Rollcall vote No. 88, Amendment offered by Rep. SMITH of Texas—"aye"

Rollcall vote No. 90—"aye"

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 GOLD MEDAL VALOR AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Prince William County Chamber recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to